



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

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Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

COVID-19 closes down tri-community, state, nation, world

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

The tri-community in which we live is getting smaller by the hour due to the coronavirus – COVID-19. The schools are closed, the new library and media center are closed, businesses are closed, and events are cancelled or postponed to unknown dates in the future — and there probably won't be a Strawberry Festival.

Last Wednesday, before the *Independent* was delivered to Belleville from the printers in Adrian, a front-page story became incorrect. The FIRST Robotics competition at Belleville High School was no longer going to be held. It was postponed to a date unknown.

The next morning, the McBride Middle School play, also featured on the front page of that week's *Independent*, was cancelled. That story became wrong, too.

The Keystone Academy school board met Thursday evening and the school was full of teachers, students, and parents for conferences. The school board meeting place had been shifted to the Music Room and when the *Independent* asked directions and explained that's where the school board was meeting, a father asked if they were going to vote on closing the school. I didn't think so.

But, later that evening, Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer closed all the K-12 schools in Michigan from Monday, March 16, for three weeks, through April 5. This came after the number of presumptive positive virus cases in the state jumped from 2 to 12 and continued to climb.

On Tuesday, Van Buren Public Schools Supt. Pete Kudlak said the district is closed until April 6 by the state and then it will have its spring break and students will return April 13, unless the state decrees otherwise.

To feed the students, Supt. Kudlak
(continued on page 13)



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman

Belleville Area District Library Board member John Juriga, left, and Library Director Mary Jo Suchy admire the six arches in the empty Fred C. Fischer Library that will be taken to the dump when the old library is demolished later this month – unless the arches can find a new home somewhere.

Library rafters heading to the dump, if they can't find a new home

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

When the late architect George Craven designed the extension of the Fred C. Fischer Library in Belleville in the 1950s, he was asked to keep the price down.

And, he did, with a construction cost of \$75 per square foot.

"But he wanted to have one feature that really popped," said Mary Jo Suchy, Director of the Belleville Area District Library, who worked at the Fred C. Fischer Library for more than 30 years.

The six, 40-foot-long, wood laminate arches was the design that popped. Now,

unless a new home can be found for the arches, they will be tossed in the dump when the Fischer library is demolished later this month.

"I'm a former wood shop teacher and I don't want them to go to the dump," said library board member John Juriga.

He said they had talked to the City of Belleville, hoping they could be put up in the Fourth Street Square, with a cover, because they are not suitable for outdoor use. But, that didn't work out.

At one point, it was thought Van Buren Township might take them, but that didn't work out.

Juriga said taking down the arches would be labor-intensive. He said the building will belong to Blue Ribbon Contracting of Romulus, whose vice president Matt Treder lives in Van Buren Township. Those interested in working out a use for the

arches and their removal may call Treder at (734) 218-2591 to negotiate the project.

The demolition of the old library was scheduled to start March 20, but vermiculite and asbestos in a wall needs to be removed and so that will take about two weeks, Juriga said, giving them some extra time to save the arches.

"I don't want them to go to the dump," Juriga repeated.

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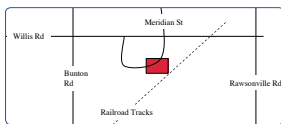
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SECOND FRONT PAGE

Belleville planners OK new site plan for 500 bl. of Main

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

A new, revised site plan for the 500 block of Main Street looks a lot different than the original plan for Belleville Main LLC approved last June by the Belleville Planning Commission.

At its regular meeting March 12, the commission unanimously approved the site plan revision, now called Belleville Main II, and stipulated that the plan for the area called Building C had to come back to the commission for approval once its use is determined.

Architect for developer Scott Jones is Wayne Hoppe of Van Buren Township who presented the new site plan and explained that the use and design of Building C is unknown at this time.

The change to the original site plan came after Jones purchased Lakeview Tavern and added that area to the site right up to the intersection south of the Belleville Bridge.

During an hour-long presentation and discussion Hoppe showed the commissioners details of the project. Jones did not attend the meeting.

"When my client purchased that parcel of land, the layout was revised drastically," Hoppe said, adding it now had maximum street frontage.

He said most of the strip of stores along Main Street and the strip of stores along North Liberty Street will have entrances on both sides, from the street and from the parking lot in the middle.

Hoppe said he has designed a pedestrian corridor, where people can park in the parking lot and walk all around Building C. There will be bollards to keep vehicles from the walkway.

He said Building A, along Main Street, will be 10,410 square feet and contain retail and restaurants. Building B, along North Liberty Street, will be 12,420 square feet and contain retail and restaurants.

Building C is a two-story building with 9,300 square feet per floor -- about 18,000 square feet -- for as yet an unknown use.

Hoppe said this is the entryway to the city and when people come over the bridge, this will be the building they see first and it will be beautiful.

"It's very, very important for the front door of Belleville," he said.

"Form follows function. We don't have a tenant. It could be a small grocery store or a restaurant and banquet hall. We don't know what it needs.

"There will be outdoor seating for the restaurant in front" where diners will look across Doane's Landing park and the lake beyond.

"We don't really know what it's going to be," he repeated.



Courtesy of Wayne Hoppe

He said along the street there will be a six-inch curb, sidewalk, and another six-inch curb, which he said was less expensive than bollards and plantings.

The storm water system has already been put in place, but they will be making come revisions to fit the new plans.

He said all the buildings will have flat roofs to comply with the city's ordinance.

Commissioner John Juriga, who is also an elected district library board member, said this project is three times the footprint of the new district library in the city and it has a smaller KSI (kilopound per square inch - underground storage unit). The library had to go by the Wayne County rules, he said.

DPW Director Rick Rutherford said the City of Belleville goes by Wayne County rules.

Commissioner Juriga said it cost the library \$200,000 to build its retention pond and the taxpayers of Belleville, Sumpter Township and Van Buren Township are paying for it.

Hoppe said the project under discussion has volume within its pipes. That will be discussed under the engineering review.

"Tonight, this is just for layout," he said. "We will follow what Hennessey says," referring to the city's consulting engineers.

He said the site will be graded so the water does go through the KSI, 750 gallons, and swirls, trapping pollutants.

Commission chairman Steve Jones said you can't compare this project to the library.

"We're going by the rules," Jones said.

"It's not fair," Juriga said, referring to a smaller KSI required.

"The library is over and done with,"

Chairman Jones said. "We are going to be following Wayne County standards. Whatever it would be, they would do. It's not appropriate to discuss tonight."

"I just want the water to be clean," Juriga said.

"We all want that," Jones replied. "Every project is different. Let's let the engineers handle that."

"As long as we're going through the same process," Juriga said.

"I will not let it go through any other process," Jones said.

Commissioner Mike Renaud asked about how the streetscape in place will be handled.

Hoppe said it will be removed during construction and then replaced, like they did for the Davenport Suites on Main Street. Anything damaged is replaced, he said.

He said they will be putting in more landscaping than required by the city.

"We think it's going to be beautiful," Hoppe said.

Juriga asked about the air conditioning units and Hoppe said they will be on the roofs and will be shielded. When the library was being planned, Juriga vehemently objected to the library having to shield its roof units.

Juriga also said he wants more bike racks and Hoppe said they have designed seven all in one place, but, "We can spread them around."

Hoppe said they will have a series of benches and trash receptacles around the building.

He said the floorplan for Building A along Main Street has a large tenant space at each

end and a larger space in the middle. He said partitions can be removed to put the spaces together.

For Building B along North Liberty Street the spaces are flexible and the partitions can be moved around. He said there will be a tower in this building and a lot of windows. The building turns the corner there.

He said the drawing he used for Building C is a schematic and he doesn't know if it will look like this.

Hoppe said they will have black, anodized window frames and doors and the awnings will be red and black. The buildings are brick and limestone.

Juriga asked about snow removal and Hoppe said it will have to be removed from the site, which is not unusual for an inner-city site.

Commissioner Becky Hasen said if a restaurant/grocery store goes in Building C, as suggested, they would have to carry their trash across the site to where the trash containers are located.

Hoppe said that would be an operational challenge to the tenant, but would be nice for the city to get the trash as far away from the restaurant as possible.

Commissioner Renaud asked about parking and Hoppe said the old plan had 91 or 92 parking spaces and the new plan has 101 spaces.

Hoppe said it depends on the uses of the buildings on whether they are meeting the parking requirements. He said if they take the second story off Building C, that would affect the number required. It depends on the use.

He said at this time they are asking the commission to approve the layout and, "We'll be back with uses. We may have parking problems, maybe not."

When asked, he said there were five handicapped parking spaces scattered around the site.

"The community had high hopes for a grocery store," said Commissioner Randy Priest, asking if there could be a grocery store in Building C or maybe a small grocery in Building A and Hoppe said that was possible. There will be an elevator in Building C, he said.

Commissioner Renaud said there would have to be loading space for a grocery store and Hoppe said that requirement was based on street frontage.

Renaud said there would have to be a big space for loading and Hoppe said they can change the design according to the tenant.

There was some discussion about blocking the street by semis for loading.

Juriga asked if there was going to be a flagpole and Hoppe said with the tower and the monument sign planned, they felt

(continued on page 17)

OPINIONS

Guest Editorial

Sunshine important now, more than ever

By James Tarrant
Executive Director
Michigan Press Association

"Sunshine is the best disinfectant" so stated Justice Louis Brandeis. The Michigan Press Association feels strongly that transparency in government is crucial to democracy. Especially in times of crisis like the one we are currently facing.

We understand that at all levels of government, public servants are scrambling to do what is best and right for the safety of Michigan citizens and we are working with groups like the Michigan Municipal League to sail these uncharted waters while still preserving the public's right to know.

On Monday, MML Executive Director Dan Gilmartin issued the following statement: "The current restrictions of Michigan's Open Meeting Act are hampering the ability of local governments to meet the needs of first responders, businesses and constituents in responding to the coronavirus pandemic. We call on state officials to move quickly to allow city and village councils and other local governments to hold meetings via virtual modes of communications, such as teleconferences and Skype, when possible, during this critical period. The Michigan Municipal League is strongly supportive of a fully transparent government – but also of one capable of doing its job of protecting the health, safety and welfare of people. Quick, decisive action is needed now, by our state leaders and our local leaders."

It is the position of the Michigan Press Association that quick decisive action is achievable while still maintaining the important tenants of the Open Meetings Act:

- Deferring what can be deferred and addressing only those items that are absolutely necessary;
- Ensuring that the public has ability to hear all participants and participate themselves; and
- Proper notice.

Because local public bodies should be addressing only those items that are absolutely necessary, we think it is also critical to make agendas and meeting packets available online in advance of the meeting.

If the local public body does not have an online presence,

- Notices of the meeting and information on how people can participate should be run in local newspapers along with a meeting agenda;

- Meeting packets, agendas, and minutes should be made available online either through a local newspaper or the MPA's offered internet site. MPA has also made it clear that it will work with its members to make such notices available quickly and inform the public where it can find the information.

We also feel that violations should be challengeable up to 90 days after the emergency is declared over to allow for proper review of any questionable scenarios.

This is a difficult time in our state and citizens are looking to their government officials to lead while still providing access to information and government action.



EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

By Rosemary K. Otzman

Linda LeBlanc said that Aleta Skomski's sister is in charge of the memorial service being planned at St. Anthony Catholic Church. Since the sister doesn't have transportation, LeBlanc planned to pick up the sister in Southgate and bring her to Belleville for a planning meeting this week. They will let everybody know after that meeting when the memorial service will be held. Aleta was well-known as Belleville's Walker.

The man who clashed with Democratic candidate for president Joe Biden over the Second Amendment the morning of March 10 was identified as Jerry Wayne of Belleville. They were at Detroit's Fiat Chrysler plant and it was primary election day in Michigan.

The exchange was captured on cell phones and broadcast on national news shows that evening and Jerry became an instant star.

At Monday's Belleville City Council meeting the Strawberry Festival item on the agenda was removed because it wasn't urgent. The city manager just shook her head when she was asked if there was going to be a Strawberry Festival.

Councilman Ken Voigt said there probably wouldn't be a Music Lakeside concert series, either. This is all because of

the necessity to keep people from gathering in groups to prevent contamination from the corona virus.

Some people have suggested all this won't be over until August.

A reader came in at about 8:45 a.m. Monday to tell us the story of how she just tried to pay her water bill at Belleville City Hall and was rebuffed. She said a woman she didn't know, who she called "the bouncer," said as she walked in, "Didn't you read the sign?" and our reader stepped back through the door and read the sign which said to drop payments in the drop box in the outer lobby if it wasn't important business.

She said she thought paying her water bill and getting a receipt was important business, but she was sternly told to drop the envelope she held in the box. She said there were two women behind the counter doing nothing and there was the bouncer. She thought about tossing the envelope to them. But, she put it in the box and left. She said she would like to apologize to the motorists on Main Street for her loud outburst after she left the building.



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Editor: Rosemary K. Otzman
Home phone (NO ADS, PLEASE!): 697-1294

Advertising Manager: Bob Mytych

Sports Editor: Bob Mytych

Bookkeeper: James Otzman

Production Manager: James Otzman

Office Manager: Janet Millard

Business Manager: Gerald McKelvey

Editorial Cartoonist: Bob Mytych

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Letters

VBT Public Safety sets measures for pandemic

To the editor:

Our Public Safety personnel come into contact with many people through their tour of duty. In an effort to minimize employee exposure to COVID-19, our Public Safety has put in place several temporary measures on how we deliver service to our community during this pandemic.

We will continue to be open during this time and answering all calls for service in our Dispatch center. Medical calls will be screened, then monitored by trained emergency medical dispatchers and a determination will be made on the type of response we will provide. Calls involving "flu like" symptoms or general illness or weakness calls will be evaluated by Huron Valley Ambulance and any necessary precautions will be taken by medical personnel on scene.

If HVA is already on scene of a medical call, fire and police units will continue to be dispatched to assist HVA as needed limiting the least amount of exposure to all parties.

Our fire stations will be closed to the general public and we are asking residents to limit their visits to our police station during this time. Records Department will be temporarily closed during this time and any reports needed can be obtained through mail or email by calling 734-699-8939 during regular business hours.

Our police desk will be open for walk-in reports, vehicle releases, bonding of arrestees, but preliminary breath tests will be suspended until further notice.

We apologize for this unforeseen inconvenience to our residents and business owners.

Gregory M. Laurain
Director of Public Safety
Van Buren Township

BACA plans wonderful summer events

To the editor:

Wonderful things are being planned this summer by the Belleville Area Council for the Arts (BACA).

The annual Soiree' has turned into a Beer/Wine Fest taking place on April 18 at the BYC. (Please watch for possible postponed date due to the virus.)

Our list continues with a Gospel Fest on June 8; Bluesfest combined with the grand opening of the new Library on July 25; and, of course, our weekly Lakeside Music in the Park series that starts on June 25.

As always, we are looking for new members to join in the fun of the ARTS. We have a newly formed Art/Poetry group you might like to join.

Please join us the second Wednesday of each month at the Trinity Episcopal Church at 7 p.m. to find out what's going

on in the ARTS community or email us at BACA4theArts@gmail.com.

Cheryl Wagner, corresponding secretary
Belleville Area Council for the Arts

Express Tire helped me after freeway disaster

To the editor:

I had a very bad experience on Sunday, March 1. I was traveling on I-275 North. There was an object in the middle of my lane, cars on both sides of me and a car behind. I hit this thing not knowing it was larger than I thought and heavy. I went over it. It was propelled under my car and hit the inside of my back left tire. It took time to start to destroy my tire.

Long story short, I just wanted to get to where I was going and I did. The very best part of all this is that Monday I called Express Tire on Belleville Road. I talked to Marty, told him I needed a tire, what happened, etc. He told me to come right in and quoted me some prices. I picked one. Another gentleman was in the store office. They both were so nice and understanding. They could tell I was still a little upset.

My car went to the garage. Was out in no time. They put air in all my tires. Air in my extra tire. Checked everything.

If you have a tire problem, need an oil change, or any other car work, please go to Express Tire on Belleville Road. Talk to Marty or Dan. You will be very pleased. Thank you two gentlemen for helping me.

Kathy Niemann
Belleville

Able to vote again after candidate dropped out

To the editor:

On Monday, March 9, I did something I did not know was possible or that I could do. I found out about this on Sunday from Channel 4, 6 p.m. news. On Monday, I voted for the second time with my absentee ballot. This was possible since my first choice dropped out. So, it was as if I didn't vote at all. The deadline was March 9, 4 p.m., at the clerk's office. Thought all of you would like to know this.

Kathy Niemann
Belleville

People running Sumpter are 'political predators'

To the editor and the people of Sumpter Township:

Who is Robert P. Young? Since I started investigating more than 18 months ago, everyone has been astonished by what has been produced. How did he end up with so much power over Sumpter Township? Why and where does Young get all the money he contributes to candidates which he backs? He even found a way to sit up on the board with the rest of the elected officials, albeit, we are paying him a lot more money than

(continued on page 6)

More Letters

(continued from page 5)

anyone else present in the boardroom.

I was shocked to see Rob Young no longer holds his Detroit office in Greektown next to the Wayne County Register of Deeds. That office is a very convenient location for a real estate attorney. His only employee in that office was his Brownstown neighbor and long-time coworker, Karen Armatis. He must be very slick to have crawled into his position here in our town. Neither Rob nor Karen are elected officials of Sumpter, they are not even taxpayers, but they both make more of the taxpayers' money than any other officials. He and Karen strong-armed John Morgan into controlling the township. I promise you, if elected, I will never let another attorney take over this township.

The people running Sumpter are "municipal predators." These types of people seek out a municipality with low voter participation and poor, outdated oversight to dig claws in deep and extract as much value for themselves as possible. Sumpter Township was a gold mine that checked every box for vulnerable flaws. Attorney Young and deputy supervisor Armatis are smart people, but the times are catching up with them. I want to work with the community to update these old-fashioned vulnerabilities and the best way to start is by **encouraging everyone to vote.**

In order for me to start producing my goals, I need to clean up the township. I will get rid of the excessive waste. Get rid of the legal department handled by Rob Young and the outsourced law firms he hires. I will settle the pending cases which are heavy costs to the township and the taxpayer. It makes no sense for Rob Young to go after tax-paying Sumpter residents (at least 11 lawsuits pending, some of them are in court of appeals). Who wants to live in a community where the leaders weaponize the government against its own residents? Not to mention that the township needs to make up for all those lost expenses, so they take even more from the taxpayer to accommodate.

The letter I received from an unnamed senior has been heavy on my mind. Her dedication to this township is so loyal, that she would neglect to buy food in order to pay her taxes. This is the sort of devotion and sacrifice the community would expect from their municipality. Instead, she writes that the board laughs at her when she speaks out. As supervisor, struggling senior residents is the first thing I will begin to address. This is a sensitive issue that requires a lot of care and planning. I won't exclude our neglected fire department and young adults, either.

Thank you,

Nelson S. Po

Any comments are appreciated and you can send me a note here;

PO BOX 2293

Belleville, MI 48112

or, NelsonPo8822@gmail.com

These are the numbers of voters who cast ballots on March 10

According to the reports from tri-community clerks the following voters cast ballots in the March 10 election.

- Belleville: 970 ballots were cast out of the 3,249 registered voters for a turnout of 29.86%. That includes 721 votes on the Democratic primary ballot, 225 on the Republican ballot, and 947 on the Detroit

Institute of Arts millage renewal;

- Sumpter Township: 1,906 ballots were cast out of the 7,527 registered voters for a turnout of 25.32%. That includes 1,214 votes on the Democratic primary ballot, 639 on the Republican ballot, and 1,846 on the DIA millage renewal; and

- Van Buren Township: 8,191 ballots

were cast out of 23,623 registered voters for a turnout of 34.6%. That includes 6,204 votes on the Democratic primary ballot, 1,777 on the Republican ballot, and 7,933 on the DIA millage renewal.

"Do or do not. There is no try."

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Obituaries



Vicki Renee Bennett

VICKI RENEE BENNETT

(August 2, 1955 – March 8, 2020)

Vicki Renee Bennett, age 64, of Black River, Michigan, passed away Sunday, March 8, 2020 at University Hospitals, Ann Arbor, MI. She was born August 2, 1955 in Westland, MI, daughter of Eugene Lloyd & Irma Marguerite (Wert) Schulz, Sr.

Vicki is survived by her devoted husband of 25 years, Robert Bennett; five brothers: Eugene (Kathy) Schulz, Jr. of Jerome, MI, Larry (Pam) Schulz of Monroe, MI, Randy (Linda) Schulz of Canton, MI, Keith (Samantha) Schulz of Onaway, MI and Jeff (Patty) Schulz of Willis, MI; one sister LaRita Bearden of Ypsilanti, MI; also numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, also two nephews: Scott Schulz and Jason Bearden. Vicki and Bob moved from Pittsfield Township to the Alpena area about 12 years ago. She was a member of Faith Lutheran Church, Ypsilanti. She enjoyed crocheting, walking in the woods, kayaking, gardening: flower and vegetables; canning food and cooking. She was an excellent cook. Vicki also loved to travel.

To honor her wishes, cremation rites have been accorded through David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville, MI.

A Memorial Celebration of her life is being planned for July 1, 2020. More information will follow. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the St. Labre Indian School, Ashland, MT 59004, and would be appreciated.
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Blanche Edith Kennedy

BLANCHE EDITH KENNEDY

(September 17, 1930 – March 9, 2020)

Mrs. Blanche Edith Kennedy, age 89, long-time Belleville area resident, passed away Monday, March 9, 2020 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ann Arbor, MI. She was born September 17, 1930 in Trammel, Virginia, daughter of Emory James & Nell Mae (Mullins) Dingus, Sr. She is survived by three daughters: Carolyn (David) Jackson and Mary (Robert) Beagan, both of Belleville, MI, and Elizabeth “Betty” Kennedy of Miller Beach, Indiana; one son Pastor Joseph (Marcia) Kennedy, Jr. of Belleville, MI; 6 grandchildren; 7 great-grandchildren and one on-the-way; also a brother David Crockett Dingus of Chincoteague, Virginia; also numerous nieces, nephews, extended family, church family and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Joseph Bolling Kennedy, Sr., brother Emory James Dingus, Jr. and a sister Jeanette Horne.

Mrs. Kennedy was a devoted member of Woodhaven and Belleville Freewill Baptist Churches, where she taught Sunday School for many years. Most recently, she was a member of Ypsilanti Missionary Baptist Church where she enjoyed the musical part of every service, including often singing the hymns “Jacob’s Ladder” and “The Model Church” by herself for the congregation. She was an avid reader, always wanting to learn. She read the World Book Encyclopedias A-Z because she found great inspiration from life and learning. Blanche loved nature. She enjoyed bird watching, gardening, yard work, fishing, picnics in the park and country drives where she loved to look for deer. She also enjoyed embroidery, quilting with her mother in Virginia, traveling, politics, and was a big fan of the Detroit Pistons. She was also a faithful supporter to the charity “Save the Children”. Most of all, her family was the love of her life.

Visitation was 4-8 PM on Thursday, March 12, 2020 at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111 (734) 697-4500. A Celebration of Life Service was Friday, March 13, 2020 at 1 PM in the main chapel of the funeral home, with her son, Pastor Joe Kennedy officiating. She will be interred next to her husband Joe Sr. in Alban Cemetery, Ypsilanti Township, MI.

Court Watching:

Judge Green dismisses felony charge against Milan George

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

On March 11, Milan Timothy George, 28, of Northville and previously of Sumpter Township, faced charges of assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder and domestic violence on Jan. 31 in Sumpter. He stood before 34th District Court Judge Tina Brooks Green.

George was free after posting bond of \$5,000/10%.

In a plea deal arranged by the prosecutor, he pled guilty to the domestic violence charge, a misdemeanor, and the felony assault charge was dismissed.

He was sentenced to one year of non-reporting probation and taking a Batterer’s class. The charge against him will be dismissed after a year if there are no other charges. Judge Green ordered no assaultive contact with the victim, who is the mother of his child.

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Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue of Sumpter is always offering adoptions at their shelter and you can sign up for basic obedience classes there, too. Call (734) 461-9458. Right now, their Cinco de Mayo fundraiser May 2 hasn't been called off and tickets and reservations can be made. Visit www.friendsofmichigan.org for a line-up of dogs and cats ready for their forever homes. Their website also provides a much-needed donation list of operating essentials like pet food, litter, and more.

The remaining Life in Belleville Seminar Series ongoing at the Ted Scott Campus at WCCC has been cancelled due to the gathering restrictions put in place here in Michigan by the Governor. In an announcement by organizers and Pastor Nathaniel Oregon, the folks at the Belleville Seventh-Day Adventist Church is offering Necessity Delivered to Your Door, which will provide a run to the store for you, for up to ten items, including over-the-counter meds, food, hygiene products, and more. No strings attached, just simply pay for your items and leave it to their team of volunteers to deliver, all for free. Just text or call (918) 902-9977. Be sure to see their ad in today's paper.

With restaurants closing their dine-in business under the corona virus restrictions, they can remain open if they choose for carry-outs and pickups only with many offering delivery service for the first time ever. Call ahead. A partial list as of Tuesday morning include Lunch Box, Bayou Grill, Johnny's on the Lake, A & W Belleville, Sam's Place, Kebob Garden, Nemo's, Jets, Tornado's, Benito's, Zino's, Happy's Pizza, Hidalgo, Qdoba, and Dos Pesos Mexican, Subway, China King, Cracker Barrel, Arby's, Culver's, Tim Horton's, Leo's Belleville, Applebee's, Bobby McShane's, Angel Food Catering, Bake Shoppe along with Tony's Coney Island and Tiffany's on the River in New Boston. I would expect that the fast foodies will also have their drive-throughs open. Simply call ahead to your favorite as many may have reduced hours, etc.

St. Paul Lutheran Church in New Boston has filled up its vendors for their indoor flea market April 23-25 at the church located at 19109 Craig Street.

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Do you have a business item you would like to see in this column? Call Bob Mytych at (734) 699-9020. There is no cost to be in this column.



March 20 – Emily Hylton, Jessica Darcy, Viola Tomkiewicz

March 21 – Bruce Ross, Jerry Zywicki, Melissa Griffin

March 23 – Allie Lee

March 24 – Donna Sienko

March 25 – David Sanders, Erica Fulton, Eva Kukla

Do you or someone you know have a birthday soon? Call the *Independent* and we will publish as soon as possible.

Correction: Sharon Pokerwinski says she makes less than printed

Sharon Pokerwinski, vendor coordinator for the Belleville National Strawberry Festival, said she does not get \$1,000 per month from January through May (\$5,000) and 20% commission on the vendor fees collected, as reported in an editor's note on page 5 of the March 12 *Independent*.

Pokerwinski said she does get the \$1,000 per month from January through May (\$5,000). When the vendor sales

are totaled, if her share is more than the original \$5,000 she got, she get the extra, she said. When asked how much she got for last year's festival, she said she didn't know and the paperwork was at home.

Rosemary K. Oztman, editor

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After 12-1/2 days open, new library closes until April 6

By Rosemary K. Oztman
 Independent Editor

A Book Brigade passed the last 100 fiction books from the old Fred C. Fischer Library to the new Belleville Area District Library at noon on Leap Day, Feb. 29, to open the new library in downtown Belleville.

Then, 12 1/2 days later, at 6 p.m., Saturday, March 14, the new library closed until Monday, April 6, in compliance with sudden state rules to contain the spreading corona virus.

On Monday, Library Director Mary Jo Suchy said Governor Gretchen Whitmer ordered all the libraries closed, and this includes the Media Center in Sumpter Township. All library programs and room reservations are cancelled until April 6.

Director Suchy said they are working with The Library Network to get due dates extended for books loaned by them. Library patrons may extend their due dates on local loans by clicking on the right-hand corner of the library web site.

The regular meeting of the library board on March 10, was before Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer laid out emergency rules to try to stop growth of the coronavirus in the state.

On March 10, board members were still celebrating the completion of the library and its use by the public.

Library Director Suchy said the circular-stair railing installers completed the entry railing at 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 27, and the library received its temporary certificate of occupancy late Friday morning, Feb. 28, from Belleville Building Official Rick Rutherford.

"The rest is history!" she said. "Overall reaction to the new library is very positive."

"This is one of the happiest Belleville Area District Library board meetings ever," said chairwoman Sharon Peters at the March 10 meeting in the new building. "We've been working so long for this."

Alma Hughes-Grubbs gave a report from the marketing committee, beginning with the Feb. 21 Mardi Gras party to say goodbye to the Fischer library.

"It was awesome," she said, noting the brass band was outstanding. The band led a walk to the new library building and back and then participants enjoyed outstanding food from the Bayou Grill.

She said there were more than 300 people there and a video was shown on the history of the library.

Then, the Book Brigade on Feb. 29 was "an awesome success" for the soft grand opening, she said, noting kids were thrilled with the computers and, so were the adults.

(continued on page 10)

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Library

(continued from page 9)

"People were excited about the new addition to the community," Grubbs said.

Board member John Juriga said the grand opening will be July 25. First, they have to demolish the Fischer library, take out five feet of soil, put in the retention pond and bio swale, and then the parking lot.

"This is the happiest I've ever seen the community," Juriga said.

"Go-Pro was on the last book," vice chairwoman Mary Jane Dawson said of the Book Brigade. She said people could say a message into the camera device as it was passed along.

"Then, everybody got sick," chairwoman Peters said, noting some were not back to work yet.

Library Director Mary Jo Suchy said ten part-time clerks have been hired, expanding the workforce at the library. She said many of the staff members have suffered from colds and flu during the lead-up and opening of the new building and they were stretched thin while everyone recovers.

Peters said art committee chairwoman Michele Montour will work with the library staff on ideas for a new logo.

Peters said on Feb 6, the art committee toured the new building and looked at spaces for art. The next meeting was planned for 3 p.m., March 26. She said possibly the committee will recommend colorful art, in a calm color, be placed in the quiet reading room.

Director Suchy said the Centennial Quilt has been hung in the History Room and the spot is so perfect, it looked like it was made for it.

Peters said art committee member Doug Peters is refurbishing the oil painting of Fred C. Fischer done in the 1930s and found that the work was done by famous black artist Hughie Lee-Smith.

Board secretary Joy Cichewicz, who chairs the building committee, reported that the old building has asbestos in it and they will have to remove that separately and work with a tent over it. There are also asbestos tiles to remove. She said they planned to start work March 20 and ETC will do the bidding.



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Oztzman

On March 10, the Belleville Area District Library Board held its first regular meeting in the newly opened library that it built with the help of taxpayers and donations. From left are library director Mary Jo Suchy, board vice chairperson Mary Jane Dawson, Linda Priest, John Juriga, secretary Joy Cichewicz, treasurer Barbara Gates, chairperson Sharon Peters, retired library director Deb Green, and Alma Hughes-Grubbs.

Cichewicz said the wood trusses will not be salvaged.

She said they are still working on the punch list and little strips of blue tape mark places that need attention. She said the teen room has an issue with the lights.

Cichewicz reported Director Suchy and Deputy Director Hilary Savage will be

(continued on page 12)

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Belleville puts city manager in charge of emergency decisions

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

The City of Belleville took all non-essential items off its agenda for Monday's city council meeting and concentrated on an "Emergency Plan."

During an hour-long discussion, the council named interim City Manager Tracey Schultz Kobylarz as the point person for outside agencies to call during an emergency and that she is the lead in the development and implementation of Emergency Operations and can declare an emergency in the city.

They also voted to request the Downtown Development Authority to abandon its present policy on use of the LED information sign on Main Street to allow for emergency notices and support for businesses trying to survive during shutdowns.

They also voted to have Kobylarz acquire the email domain name of bellevilleonthelake.com for the city at a cost of \$3.33 per person for about 20 names.

Also, authorized Police Chief David Robinson to sign the city up for a Nixel

account at a cost not to exceed \$5,000, so information can be disseminated.

Kobylarz said she and Chief Robinson have been working on plans to make sure the residents of the city of Belleville are safe.

She said city staff cleaned city hall with disinfectants and the council will be pleasantly surprised if they go around and see the work done.

She said the situation with COVID-19 is changing rapidly. Last Friday, people were not to gather in groups of 250 and the St. Patrick's Day party had to be canceled. Then it was 100, then 50, and now its 10 people.

She said it is a recommendation and not a mandate. Kobylarz had spaced the five city council seats about six feet apart, with a few seats in the audience set apart, with printed explanations on top of each seat. She tried to allow just 10 people in the room, but it turned out to be 12. A fire fighter and a police officer waited in the hallway outside the meeting room.

Kobylarz said the city had calls from Beaumont Hospital, the Michigan Municipal League, and Wayne County

and the same information was in all three calls. She said there was some confusion about who was the point person to contact in the city for emergencies and to make the decisions.

She said she consulted the city charter and this was not stated.

Councilman Ken Voigt said it was wise to make the city manager the point person, but he would like her to have input from police and fire.

"If a person in our city is determined to have COVID-19, they have to have someone to alert," Kobylarz said. She said in Grosse Pointe, the mayor learned of a case in the city from a member of council.

Although she is the supervisor of Redford Township, Kobylarz said she doesn't run the township.

"We want to make sure people know ... who that is," she said. "So, we're singing from the same hymn book."

"We are in the process of determining whether people can work from home, but that is very limited," she said. "They have to take money from the lockbox and enter it into the computer."

Councilman Tom Fielder said Belleville has a city manager form of government with a weak mayor. The city manager should do whatever she has to do if she can't contact the mayor first.

"I appreciate the vote of confidence," Kobylarz said. "If there was no one around, I would make a decision, at least with the police chief, so 'it's not made under a bushel.'"

Councilman Fielder pointed out that the city manager and the police chief are not residents of the city. What if something happens in the middle of the night?

Chief Robinson said he is often called at night and when there is any incident of a critical nature or of interest he will let the city manager know.

He said this corona virus situation could last until August, no one knows.

"The more we can do to flatten the curve, the better," he said. "Basically, we are working on a plan especially for this virus. This is unique ... and there are orders from the county, state, and federal governments... The country is in a state of emergency..."

There was more discussion on resources and Fire Chief Brian Loranger said he gave the police department ten masks from the fire department.

Mayor Kerreen Conley said communication is going to be critical. If a course of action is determined, it needs to be shared with the city council.

"We don't want to be out in the public and not know what is going on," Mayor Conley said.

Fire Chief Loranger, who is also a chiropractor, advised everyone to take Vitamin D and Vitamin C, and take food with Vitamin D because it binds to fat. He said the vitamins will keep the immune system up.

"Those with compromised immune systems are the ones who are dying," he said.

Mayor Conley said she would like to minimize the number of meetings that bring people together in rooms. She said the city spent a lot of money on the web site and she would like to see notices put on the web site. She said the website was stagnant previously and she doesn't want it to be that way now.

Mayor Conley said water bills that are sent out could have notices included.

Councilman Fielder said the council didn't anticipate the new police chief and the new city manager having this trial to be a part of "the tribe," but that's the way it turned out.

After it was insinuated the Strawberry Fest wouldn't be held this year, Councilman Voigt said Music Lakeside probably wouldn't be held, either.

"This is the darndest thing I've ever seen," Voigt said. "This will really test our mettle as a nation. God help us."

In other business at the one-hour-and-eight-minute meeting, the council:

- Opted out of the Wayne County PAYS Program which is based on foreclosure rates since Belleville has zero property in foreclosure; and

- Approved \$415,515.06 in accounts payable and the following purchases in excess of \$500: to Blue Ribbon Contracting, \$6,972.25 for a water main break at Wabash and South streets, and \$2,915 for repair of broken city water service at 41 Potter Dr.; to Morton Salt, \$4,641.88 for road salt; and to RJ Perry Construction, \$2,232 for ceiling repair in office at city hall.

"The liberties of a people never were, nor ever will be, secure, when the transactions of their rulers may be concealed from them."

— Patrick Henry

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LDFA discusses noxious landfill odors from Waste Management

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

At the March 11 meeting of the Van Buren Township Local Development Finance Authority, LDFA member John Delaney said he has smelled noxious odors from the Waste Management landfill as he

drove along I-275.

Another LDFA member, Scott Medlen of Sovereign Partners which now owns Grace Lake Corporate Center, said he has complained about the smell.

Delaney said the landfill has been processing methane and it is supposed to

cover it every night, but he suspects they aren't covering, since rain and other water increases methane.

He said the odor goes west of I-275 and along Van Born and impacts Grace Lake's tenants and future tenants, if that is ignored. This is when prevailing winds are from the northeast.

Delaney said he can put up a drone as a private resident to see if they are covering each night, as required. He said methane is all for profit for the landfill and is an inconvenience to the residents.

"I just learned of the expansion a month ago," Medlin said. "A notice went to the office in New York. I requested a time line for decisions."

"It's done. There's nothing to stop," said VBT Supervisor Kevin McNamara, adding there is a 500-foot buffer along Ecorse Road.

Medlen said today was really bad. He looked out the third-floor window on the east side of the Grace Lake buildings and, "I can see them dumping."

"It is going to get closer, with two more hills, taking 20 years each," Supervisor McNamara said. "The next 20 years they will be half way through the golf course."

"This is going to be a problem for Grace Lake air intakes," Delaney said. "You have no scrubbers."

"It makes it harder to fill the place,"

Medlen said, referring to tenants.

"Sea gulls eat there and immediately fly over and make a mess in the water and parking lot," Medlen said. "You can chase the seagulls and they come back. I asked Waste Management to curb the sea gull population."

"I contacted the DNR and they said sea gulls are protected as migratory birds. If they are nesting on our property we could do something, but they are not nesting," Medlen said.

Delaney said Waste Management is not burning the methane any more and is compounding and pressurizing it now. He said mercury, zinc, and other chemicals are potentially coming out as long as groundwater is coming in.

"I live right there and it's in my backyard on Ecorse Road," Delaney said.

Matthew Best, director of public service, said the buffer zone is 300 feet, then another 200 feet.

"The landfill was there before Visteon Village," Best said, referring to the complex now called Grace Lake.

He said the smell won't be more, but will be the same. There are things they are doing that help cut odors, Best said, adding they are working on their methane system.

"It's actually one of the better landfills in this area," Best said, adding he would be glad to talk to Sovereign Partners about it.

Library

(continued from page 10)

trained on the HVAC and "record it for posterity."

She said there had been some discussion on how to put the address up and it was decided to put 167 in big numbers on the door.

Juriga reported they will be putting three hives of honey bees on the very top roof, which will be taken care of by two people from the Bees in the D organization. Therese Antonelli is donating one hive.

Juriga said he and Jim Wagner, a local beekeeper, went on the roof the previous week and agreed on where the hives should be. They discussed it with the builder.

Cichewicz, who has bee hives at her Sumpter Township home, said the vegetative roof will have plenty of clover for the bees to feast on and they will go three miles to collect pollen.

Juriga said Savage is learning about bees and may take over care of the hives after a year.

"This has ecological importance," Peters said.

Juriga made a motion, seconded by vice chairwoman Mary Jane Dawson, to set up the bee hives in April, with work done by Bees in the D and one hive being donated by Therese Antonelli of Moving the Mitten. The motion passed unanimously.

Cichewicz said honey bees are just one type of pollinator. She said Africanized bees can't survive winters. Honey bees are gentle and don't attack.

"They are hairy, fuzzy, warm, and friendly," she said, adding they can only sting one time and then they die.

"If you didn't know we had bees on the roof, we wouldn't know we had bees on the roof," Peters said.

Juriga said in the future they may put

cameras on the roof so the bees can be observed by the public.

He said in Cuba they use bee stings to cure arthritis.

Peters said the new library has books and also has technology. It was noted there are 11 security cameras at the facility.

In other business at the one-hour-and-three-minute meeting, the board:

- Heard Dawson say, "I love my new library." She said Library Week is April 19-23 this year and this library will mark 10 years of being a district library on April 17. She said this new library building wouldn't have happened if they had not become a district library;

- Heard Cichewicz thank the marketing committee for pulling two events together, referring to the Mardi Gras and the Book Brigade, showing the community the library can put on two big events back to back;

- Heard Juriga say, "Belleville finally has a destination." He said he is donating stuff from the old library to garage sales and other libraries;

- Heard Peters say the board is thankful the community has been behind the library with tax dollars and tremendous private donations. The library hosts the best parties in the community and will make this library a community place. She said Van Buren Township will help with the grand opening in July. Juriga said after the July 25 grand opening at noon, there will be a car show and jazz concert on Main Street and the street will be closed; and

- Heard two Boy Scouts from Troop 271 at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Livonia explain they came to the board meeting to work on the Communications Badge leading to their Eagle Scout goals. Their mothers were at the meeting with them.

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COVID-19

(continued from page 1)

said plans are to put four buses out with lunches for anyone between the ages of 0-18, who live in the district, including Keystone Academy students. They will not be checking IDs, but adults will not be fed. The buses will be at set locations for about a half hour each between the hours of 10 a.m. and noon, Monday through Friday. Places will be announced on Facebook and the district web site. He said teachers are going to be sending activities home to the students to do to help with their education, but they can't be graded.

Supt. Kudlak said the district will continue to pay hourly employees even if they are not working and salaried employees continue to be paid by the year. He said the district gets about \$8,000 each per student in state aid for 180 days of instruction. He said on Tuesday that the state legislature was taking up the proposal that day to give the districts 10 more days of foregone closures.

The courts

Last Thursday, Wayne County Circuit Court adjourned all civil proceedings and delayed some criminal and juvenile cases in response to the coronavirus outbreak. Civil cases were adjourned through March 30 and criminal and juvenile cases in which the defendant is out on bond were to be adjourned, as well.

Because of the Governor's emergency orders the court has given the Wayne County Sheriff's Department authority to remove from the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice anyone showing signs of illness.

On Friday, the 34th District Court issued this statement: "We here at the courthouse have been actively monitoring the situation surrounding the spread of COVID-19. With the reports of instances of the virus occurring in Wayne County as well as the bans on gathering, we wanted to clarify the 34th District Court will remain open and operational until further notice.

"With this in mind, and the desire to keep health and safety paramount, as well as our duty to the communities we serve, we ask that if you feel sick with symptoms of COVID-19, or feel that you are at a specific 'High Risk' for contracting the COVID-19 that you please Contact Us instead of appearing in court.

"We are willing to work with you within

the bounds of reason and understanding to ensure your business is taken care of either remotely or rescheduled for a later date. Understand that NOT ALL cases will be able to be handled in this fashion, and failure to comply with the court orders or deadlines will result in penalty."

Senior Centers closed

On Friday, Sumpter Township announced the Senior Center was closed until further notice, but the Meals on Wheels deliveries would continue.

Over the weekend, Van Buren Township canceled all programs and events at the Senior Center and Parks and Recreation Department until April 6.

Social distancing

On Friday, Gov. Whitmer also signed an executive order canceling all events over 250 people and all assemblages in shared spaces over 250 people beginning at 5 p.m. that day and ending Sunday, April 5.

Certain assemblages are exempted, including those for the purpose of industrial or manufacturing work, mass transit, or the purchase of groceries or consumer goods.

Later, the Center for Disease Control recommended banning groups of 50 or more and then it was 10.

Chamber of Commerce

Also on Friday, the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce postponed its March 21 Awards Banquet, but the \$10,000 drawing will take place and be streamed live on Facebook.

HCMA

On Friday, the Huron Clinton Metroparks announced all programs are canceled and buildings in the Metroparks are closing through April 5. The parks are to remain open, for now.

Food Closets

Many local churches have cancelled services and other activities. The Community Food Closet at Belleville First United Methodist Church was going to be closed down through April 5. Marilyn Wood of the Food Closet said, "Our volunteer food distributors are all over the age of 70 and many have significant health issues and we don't want to jeopardize their health."

But later, Wood said they are going continue to be open because two younger volunteers have offered to dispense the food. The regular hours are from 10 a.m. to

1 p.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Owen Intermediate School Food Pantry reported serving 40 families with food on Sunday and will give out food next Sunday, as well. This will take place between 10 a.m. and noon. People are instructed to drive around the back of the building and bags will be delivered to the cars. Those interested in reserving bags are asked to private message the Owen's Community Closet & Food Pantry Facebook page by Wednesday night to reserve bags (not required). Donations of food will be accepted from 9 a.m. to noon on Thursday and they can be dropped off at the back of Owen by Door 10.

Libraries, etc. closed

On Saturday, the new Belleville Area District Library in downtown Belleville announced it was closing through April 5, along with its Media Center in Sumpter Township. The museum is also closed.

On Monday, as of 3 p.m., Gov. Whitmer temporarily closed all theaters, bars, and casinos and limited restaurants to carry-out and delivery orders. This is through 11:59 p.m., March 30.

Under her Executive Order 2020-9, the following places of public accommodation were closed: restaurants, cafes, coffee houses, bars, taverns, brewpubs, distilleries, clubs, movie theaters, indoor and outdoor performance venues, gymnasiums, fitness centers, recreation centers, indoor sports facilities, Indoor exercise facilities, exercise studios, spas, and casinos.

VB Township, city hall closed

Van Buren Township voted Monday afternoon to close township hall for two weeks, until March 30, with directors and needed staff members working to keep up behind closed doors. The situation will be reevaluated after that.

Monday night, the city of Belleville council voted to give all power to make decisions on the emergency to its new city manager and police chief. City hall has been closed to the public, with appointments made by phone.

On Tuesday, Sumpter Township Hall closed until further notice.

Community Health program

The Belleville Area Lions Club has cancelled the Community Health Expo set for April 4, but will reschedule it in the

(continued on page 15)

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It's time for the Census, be sure to be counted

The 2020 U.S. Census count has begun and elected officials throughout the nation are urging their populations to be counted because it will affect federal money coming to their areas as well as the number of Congress persons assigned to each state for representation.

What the Census is:

The Census is a count of every person who lives in the United States and its territories. It is performed by the U.S. Census Bureau every 10 years. Every resident of the United States is being asked to respond to the Census with a count of each person living in their home as of April 1, 2020.

The 2020 Census can be completed online, by phone, or via a paper questionnaire.

Why the Census matters:

Results of the 2020 Census will inform decisions about allocating hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding to communities across the country – for hospitals, fire departments, school lunch programs, and other critical programs and services.

The Census helps to determine federal funding distributions for roads, schools, emergency services, public transportation, libraries, and more.

Results affect planning and funding for infrastructure – including programs for highway planning and construction, Section 8 housing, federal transit, community development, and rural water and waste disposal systems.

After each decade's Census, state officials redraw the boundaries of the congressional and state legislative districts to account for population shifts.

Privacy and data security:

By federal law, Census information is private and confidential.

Personal information shared with the Census cannot be used against you or anyone else by any government agency or court.

Your responses can only be used to produce statistics. They cannot be used for law enforcement purposes or to determine your eligibility for government benefits.

The Census Bureau encrypts all responses submitted online and stored in its computers. To support historical research, Title 44 of the U.S. Code allows the National Archives and Records Administration to release census records only after 72 years.

Learn more at 2020census.gov.

This information courtesy of the Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG).

“Anyone who stops learning is old whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young.”
– Henry Ford

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Publish: March 19, 2020, March 26, 2020

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– Yogi Berra

It's Pothole Season

The Wayne County Department of Public Services said it can't fix potholes unless it knows where they are. Report Wayne County potholes to 1-888-ROAD-CREW.

COVID-19

(continued from page 13)

future.

Flop E. Bunny cancelled

Also, the annual Flop E. Bunny candy hunt at Victory Park, planned for April 11, has been cancelled.

Depleted shelves

Over the week end the social media was full of reports of depleted, empty shelves at local grocery stores caused by the crowds of people buying emergency items and food. By the first of the week, the shelves had been restocked, according to reports, and then depleted again.

COVID-19 information

Patients with confirmed infection have reportedly had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

The best prevention for viruses, such as influenza, the common cold or COVID-19 is:

- If you think you have been exposed to COVID-19, call your health-care provider. If you do not have a health-care provider, call the nearest hospital.
- Wash your hands often with soap and warm water for 20 seconds. If not available, use hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or upper sleeve when coughing or sneezing.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick.
- If you are sick, stay home, and avoid

contact with others.

- Replace handshakes with elbow bumps.
- Stay at least 6 feet away from others when in a public setting.

Information around this outbreak is changing rapidly. The latest information is available at Michigan.gov/Coronavirus and CDC.gov/Coronavirus.

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Bus 1

10-10:30 a.m., Belleville Manor, 8701 Belleville Rd.

10:30-11 p.m., Parkwood Manor, 8800 Tyler Rd.

11-11:30 a.m., McBride and Van Buren St. (in Haggerty Sub)

11:30-12 p.m., Kirkridge Park, 8701 Kirkridge Park Dr.

Bus 2

10-11 a.m., Mary Catherine (between Jeff and Lori streets)

11-12 p.m., Lakeview Park (corner of Smith St. and Lakview Ave.)

Bus 3

10-11:30 a.m., 51000 Mott Rd. in the office visitor parking lot

11:30-12 p.m. Old Rawsonville and Sylvia Dr.

Bus 4

10-10:30 a.m., Sumpter Township Community Center

10:30-11 a.m., Savage Elementary School

11-11:30 a.m., Owen

11:30-12 p.m., 49000 Denton Rd., Harbour Club Apts.

Independent earns two awards in MPA Better Newspaper Contest

The *Belleville-Area Independent* won two awards in the 2019 Michigan Press Association Better Newspaper Contest.

The awards were announced March 12.

Members of the Montana Press Association reviewed 3,500 entries submitted by 106 Michigan newspapers and individual members this year.

The competition is held to inspire all journalists to produce their best work, which in turn nurtures stronger communities.

A drone shot of the Toxic Algae in Belleville Lake by *Independent* Production Manager / Bookkeeper / Photographer James Otzman won third place in the News Photo division in the category Weekly/Class C, for newspapers from 3,001 to 7,000 in circulation.

The story "Teacher on porn site pulled from Edgemont class," by *Independent* Editor Rosemary K. Otzman won third place in the Weekly/News Media C, Spot News Story division.

"We are pleased to present the best of the best from Michigan Press Association members from this year's Better Newspaper Contest," said Richard Lamb, president of the MPA and publisher of the Presque Isle County Advance and Onaway Outlook.

"The outstanding quality of work shows that the press is strong in Michigan and we are proud of the accomplishments of all the winners. Based on the judge's comments, many categories had several entries worthy of first place. The effort by these journalists and community newspapers show that excellence is the standard for newspapers in our state," he said.

"Don't gamble! Take all your savings and buy some good stock and hold it 'till it goes up, then sell it. If it don't go up, don't buy it."

— Will Rogers

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"Fear is the path to the dark side. Fear leads to anger. Anger leads to hate. Hate leads to suffering."

— Yoda

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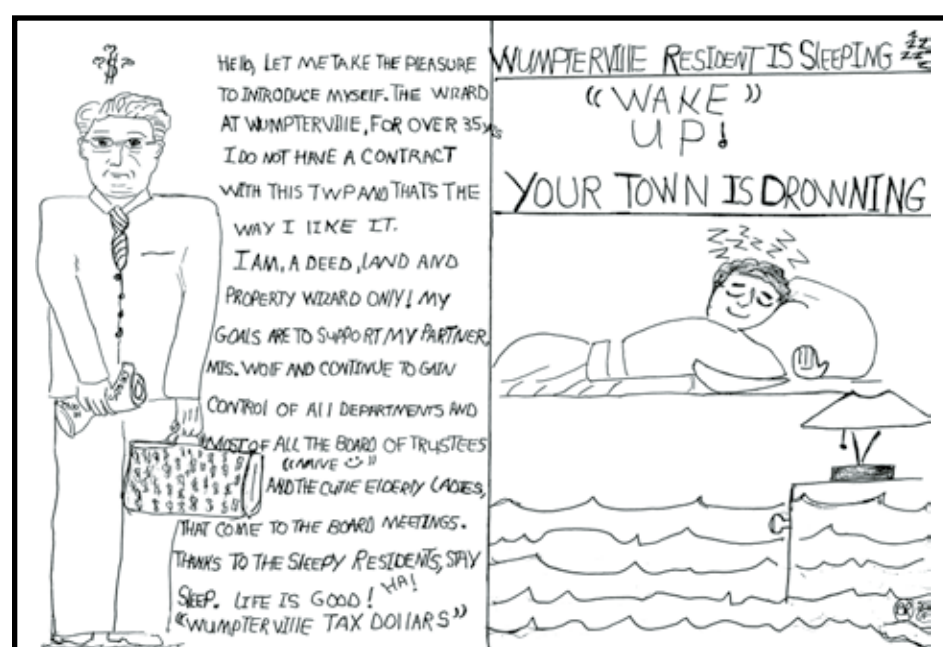
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Cartoon to the Editor



Van Buren Township will be closed for two weeks due to COVID-19

News release from Van Buren Township
In an effort to reduce the spread and exposure of COVID-19, the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees voted to shut down all township administration offices, including the Senior Center, Parks & Recreation Department, all Van Buren public parks, Fire Stations 1 and 2, and the public safety records window starting Tuesday, March 17, for two weeks. After two weeks the shutdown will be reevaluated.

The Public Safety Department (police, fire and dispatch) remains open. All preliminary breath testing will be suspended until further notice. All programs and events have been canceled until Monday, April 6.

The Senior Center Meals on Wheels program will continue, as planned. Seniors participating in the program have received five frozen meals just in case the program has any delays. However, hot meals are still being delivered daily.

The Focus Hope and Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) will operate as planned on Thursday, March 19. Senior Center transportation services are still operating as planned. Those with questions may call (734) 699-8918 or email Lynette Jordan at ljordan@vanburen-mi.org.

Yard waste and garbage pick up are still operating as scheduled. Residents who need landfill passes will have to wait until further notice.

For police and fire reports, submit a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request available on the township website: <https://vanburen-mi.org/officials/clerk/>. The FOIA request can also be emailed and/or faxed to you directly by contacting the Records Office at (734) 699-8939 or by emailing Tina Harman at tharman@vanburen-mi.org. When sending email requests, write FOIA Request in the subject line.

Copies of traffic crash reports can be obtained on the CLEMIS website: www.clemis.org. You will need to know the report number in order to obtain a copy of the report. These reports can also be obtained by submitting a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request form. If you do not know the report number, contact the Records Office at (734) 699-8939.

Due to the records window closure at this time, local background checks will not be done at the window. Visit the State of Michigan website: www.michigan.gov to obtain an ICHAT background check through the State of Michigan.

The township is committed to supporting its at-risk population as best it can.

This information is subject to change as more news is released via the Federal and State governments. The township

is closely monitoring the COVID-19 situation and will update staff and residents as new information is reported. The residents' patience and understanding are appreciated.

Court Watching:

Judge Green dismisses charge against Johnson while officer on vacation

On March 11 at 34th District Court, Justin Cleeve Johnson, 17, of Van Buren Township, who was charged with unauthorized driving away of a motor vehicle on Nov. 25 in Van Buren Township, was set for his preliminary exam.

Judge Tina Brooks Green dismissed the case

at the request of the Neighborhood Defense Service attorney Diamond Lynn Conley because Van Buren Township Police Officer Donovan McCarthy was on vacation and wouldn't be present to testify. Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Lori Mireles-Smith had asked for a two-week adjournment, but Judge Green said the police knew McCarthy would be on vacation and sat through last week's probable cause conference without mentioning it to the court. Prosecutor Smith said she had just been informed that morning that McCarthy was not coming.

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

Charter Township of Van Buren Annual Cemetery Cleaning Notice

The Department of Public Services will be conducting its annual spring cleaning at all Township cemeteries.

**Spring cleaning will begin
April 6, 2020 and run through April 9, 2020**

Receptacles placed on graves such as flowerpots, religious items and similar objects will be discarded if not removed by April 5, 2020

New items may be displayed beginning
April 10, 2020

Van Buren Township provides maintenance for the following cemeteries:

Denton - 49780 Cross St. (Michigan Avenue and Denton Road)

Soop - 49250 Denton Road (South I-94 Service Drive and Denton Road)

Tyler - 39820 Tyler Road (Tyler and Hannan Roads)

Otisville - 41875 Riggs Road

For additional information contact
The Department of Public Services 734.699.8925

Leon Wright
Township Clerk

Posted: March 12, 2020
Published: March 19, 2020
April 2, 2020

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

POLICE VEHICLE AUCTION

On March 25th, 2020, the Van Buren Township Police Department will conduct a public auction of impounded and abandoned vehicles. The auction will begin at 10:30am, at **J&T Towing** and Storage, 287 Industrial Dr. Belleville MI, County of Wayne, where the following will be offered for sale to the highest bidder.

2007	FORD	4D	3FAHP07137R273981	20-1072
2007	CHEVROLET	4D	2G1WB58K779393009	20-1359
2005	CHRYSLER	4D	2C8GF684X5R662333	20-2022
2005	CADILLAC	SW	1GYEE637950118293	20-2415
2006	DODGE	4D	1B3EL46T16N268297	20-2809

At 11:30am, the auction will move to **Great Lakes Towing** and storage, 42350 Van Born Rd. Belleville MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles, will be offered for sale to the highest bidder.

2011	BUICK	4D	W04GS5EC5B1007414	19-24167
2010	FORD	4D	3FAHP0JG1AR160003	20-445
2004	CADILLAC	4D	1G6KD54Y84U223169	20-1952
2010	CHRYSLER	SW	2A4RR7DXXAR428303	20-1952
2002	FORD	4D	1FAFP53U42G200512	20-2005
2009	CHRYSLER	4D	1C3LC56D59N555462	20-2041
2008	INFINITI	4D	JNKBV61F88M261511	20-2175
2003	OLDSMOBILE	4D	1G3NL52F43C176743	20-2972
2006	BMW	4D	WBAVB33546KS35598	20-3522

All vehicles are sold in "as is condition." Bidding on all impounded vehicles will start at the amount due for towing and storage. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

Leon Wright MMC, CMMC., Van Buren Township Clerk,
Published: March 19th, 2020

Site Plan

(continued from page 3)

Adding a flagpole would be too much.

It was noted that the project needs rezoning of two lots that are part of the site: lot 276 which is B-1 and needs to be rezoned B-2 and lot 277, which is RM and needs to be rezoned B-2. Also, they need to have easements for the streetscape vacated, he said.

Colette McClinton of Main Street Flowers said semi trucks come through the alley behind her store for the carpet store near her and she wants Hoppe to make sure there is enough turning radius in his plans.

She said she is on the fire department and at the Davenport Plaza on East Columbia Avenue the turning radius is very tight. Hoppe also designed that project.

He said it meets the ordinance. Hoppe said the entrances planned on Main Street

and North Liberty Street are 20' wide entrances, as required.

Juriga asked if they couldn't put in bioswales, like the library is doing.

Hoppe said the water table is 36" below grade here and the bioswale doesn't work.

Councilman Tom Fielder asked about signage and Hoppe said the stores will have small signs.

"My hope is that people will window shop all around the shops," he said, noting the walkway is barrier-free.

The commission unanimously approved a motion to recommend to the city council the rezoning of the two lots and then unanimously approved the amended, previously approved site plan with the caveat that they will come back with plans for Building C.

"We'll be back when we get somebody in C," Hoppe said.

Although plans are to begin work soon, the project has to get approval for engineering, plumbing, and other things before construction can begin.

In other business at the one-hour-and-19-minute meeting, the commission:

- Re-elected Steve Jones as chairman and Michael Hawkins as vice-chairman for

2020;

- Approved the minutes of the Dec. 12 meeting, the commission's last meeting held; and

• Heard Rutherford report that the commission had talked about looking at parking requirements. He said Carol Thompson, coordinator of the Downtown Development Authority, had done a study of the city-owned parking spots that he could bring to them. But, he said, the footprint is changing now and he thinks they should wait to consider future development and parking until after Fourth Street's redesign is in place and the library parking lot is done.

Included in the commission information packet for the meeting was a Dec. 19 attorney's opinion from city attorney Stephen Hitchcock that said Rutherford was correct in authorizing a building permit for work on the former car wash on East Huron River Drive. Hitchcock said the work on the existing footprint did not trigger site plan approval. At the Dec. 12 meeting, Rutherford was criticized for not making the owner file a site plan that would be brought before the planning commission.



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Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

Out of the 478 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police, the following are selected for this column.

Sunday, March 8:

0012 – suspicious person/vehicle, N. I-94 Service
0128 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. Sunset Ln.
0133 – assault & battery, Belleville Rd.
0327 – domestic, E. Sadie Ln.
0328 – domestic, W. Archwood Dr.
0835 – domestic, Bog Rd.
0909 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Freedom Way
1050 – intrusion alarm, Christina Ln.
1052 – assist citizen, Colonial
1216 – found property/child, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1216 – suspicious person/vehicle, Hardwood Dr.
1331 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1406 – 911 welfare check, Tyler Rd./Jackson St.
1445 – animal complaint, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1552 – noise complaint, Martz Rd.
1818 – traffic offense, Pine Dr./Maple Dr.
1854 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1924 – suicidal person, Belle Pointe Dr.
1956 – suspicious person/vehicle, Coolidge St.
1957 – welfare check, Brookview Dr.
2034 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
2033 – suspicious person/vehicle, Rawsonville Rd.
2057 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. I-94 Service
2136 – neighbor trouble, Sylvia Dr.

Monday, March 9:

0022 – disorderly, Lighthouse Dr.
0025 – assist other dept., E. Archwood Dr.
0303 – suspicious person/vehicle, N. I-94 Service
0609 – property damage accident, S. I-94 Service Dr. / Rawsonville Rd.
0624 – animal complaint, Parkwood
0818 – civil matter, Van Buren Ln.
1244 – ordinance violation, McBride Ave.
1428 – malicious destruction of property, Meadows Cir.
1508 – motorist assist, Belleville Rd.
1525 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
1625 – assault & battery, Belleville Rd.
1650 – fraud, Belle Pointe Dr.
1708 – 911 welfare check, Kirkridge Park Dr.
1932 – neighbor trouble, Bayshore Dr.
2319 – assist other dept., EB I-94/rest area

Tuesday, March 10:

0109 – parking complaint, Dalton Dr.
0242 – property damage accident, WB I-94 / Rawsonville
0418 – suspicious person/vehicle, N. I-94 Service
0703 – hospice death, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0810 – 911 welfare check, Barnwell Dr.
0927 – misc. complaint, McBride
1025 – civil matter, Van Buren Ln.
1102 – misc. complaint, McBride Ave.
1123 – misc. complaint, McBride Ave.
1154 – abandoned auto, N. Woodbury Dr.
1329 – suspicious person/vehicle, Buchanan St.
1359 – misc. complaint, McBride Ave.
1422 – misc. complaint, McBride Ave.
1453 – misc. complaint, McBride Ave.
1531 – misc. complaint, McBride Ave.
1624 – property damage accident, Haggerty
1650 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. I-94 Service
1802 – PPO violation, Lake Point Blvd.
1851 – missing person, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2008 – assist other dept., Daniel Dr.
2012 – 911 welfare check, Belleville Rd.
2104 – fight, Parkwood Dr.

Wednesday, March 11:

0001 – noise complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0013 – traffic offense, Bemis Rd./Sumpter Rd.
0202 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
0412 – suspicious person/vehicle, DNR boat launch, Rawsonville
0734 – disorderly, Haggerty Rd.
0736 – unauthorized driving away of auto, S. Ponderosa Trl.
0828 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
0842 – road hazard, Tyler Rd./Haggerty Rd.
1036 – assist other dept., E. Main St.
1214 – private property/property damage accident, Green Meadows
1319 – animal complaint, Lohr Rd.

1401 – civil matter, Brandi Dr.
1432 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1522 – private property impound, Van Born
1558 – suicidal person, Daniel Dr.
1637 – road hazard, Van Born/Belleville
1658 – larceny, Stamford Rd.
1721 – parking complaint, Belleville Rd.
1724 – traffic offense, Hamilton Ct.
1800 – animal complaint, Tyler Rd.
1806 – property damage accident, E. Schooner Dr.
1857 – road hazard, S. I-94 Service Dr. / Rawsonville Rd.
1911 – breaking & entering, Wheeler St.
2021 – road hazard, Belleville Rd.

Thursday, March 12:

0015 – noise complaint, Locust Dr.
0505 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. Woodbury Green Dr.
0914 – misc. complaint, Tyler Rd.
1106 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1352 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
1505 – disorderly, Westlake
1551 – property damage accident, Speedway
1632 – operating while intoxicated, S. I-94 Service Dr. / Quirk Rd.
1827 – suspicious person/vehicle, Hamilton St.
1936 – harassment call, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2031 – noise complaint, N. Woodbury Green
2038 – traffic offense, Haggerty Rd./Bemis Rd.
2246 – traffic offense, Ecorse Rd./Belleville Rd.
2311 – overdose, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2331 – malicious destruction of property, Sawgrass Ct.

Friday, March 13:

0501 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
0838 – assist other dept., N. Ponderosa Trl.
1226 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1258 – fight, N. Woodbury Green
1434 – assist other dept., Belleville Rd.
1500 – fraud, North Shore Dr.
1518 – parking complaint, Denton Rd.
1556 – private property impound, Belleville Rd.
1556 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave. / Denton Rd.
1604 – property damage accident, S. I-94 Service Dr. / Denton Rd.
1659 – malicious destruction of property, Lohr Rd.
1716 – suspicious person/vehicle, Water's Edge Ln.
1741 – assist other dept., Savage Rd./Country Walk Blvd.
1800 – domestic, Ecorse Rd.
1816 – shooting, Denton Rd.
1824 – parking complaint, Denton Rd.
1840 – juvenile complaint, Belleville Rd.
1918 – domestic, Monterey Dr.
2117 – larceny, Belleville Rd.
2139 – traffic offense, Belleville Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.

2158 – disorderly, Holly Ln.
2213 – suspicious person/vehicle, Shelley Dr.
2217 – person injury accident, Rawsonville Rd.
2235 – suspicious person/vehicle, Martinsville Rd.
2233 – suspicious person/vehicle, Wildbrook Dr.
2304 – private property impound, Van Born

Saturday, March 14:

0024 – suspicious person/vehicle, Prairiegrass / Sage
0047 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
1012 – hold up alarm, Rawsonville Rd.
1014 – misc. complaint, Lighthouse Dr.
1032 – larceny, Fret Rd.
1214 – 911 welfare check, Belleville Rd.
1223 – found property/child, Martz Rd./Lohr Rd.
1343 – threat, Richard Run Dr.
1407 – civil matter, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1519 – shooting, Tyler Rd.
1538 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
1605 – suspicious person/vehicle, Tyler
1618 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1739 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1800 – assault & battery, Parkwood Dr.
1849 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. I-94 Service
1916 – larceny from auto, Rawsonville Rd.
1937 – suspicious person/vehicle, Haggerty Rd.
1937 – malicious destruction of property, W. Archwood Dr.
2012 – civil matter, W. Archwood Dr.
2013 – 911 welfare check, N. I-94 Service Dr.
2025 – family trouble, McKinley St.
2122 – suspicious person/vehicle, Rickman Dr.
2219 – suspicious person/vehicle, Hayes St.

2307 – assist other dept., Briar Dr.
2313 – noise complaint, Kirkridge Park Dr.
Also on this week's log are 204 traffic stops, with 98 on the I-94 and I-275 expressways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, March 8:

1319 – trespassing, Denton Rd.
1420 – ordinance violation, Oxford Ct.
1504 – trespassing, South St./Sumpter Rd.
1622 – assist fire dept., Menlo Park Dr.
1623 – motorist assist, W. Columbia Ave.

Monday, March 9:

0044 – suspicious person/vehicle, Carmell St.
1452 – motorist assist, Main St./High St.
1609 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1629 – suspicious person/vehicle, Main St.
1740 – assist fire dept., Carmell St.

Tuesday, March 10:

0257 – traffic offense, Quirk/Belleville
0823 – civil matter, Church St.
1218 – intrusion alarm, Carmell St.
1929 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
2216 – civil matter, N. Aberdeen Ct.

Wednesday, March 11:

0223 – suspicious person/vehicle, Menlo Park Dr.
1032 – disorderly, Main St.
1207 – warrant arrest, Plymouth
1257 – intrusion alarm, Carmell St.
1448 – misc. complaint, Carmell St.
1449 – misc. complaint, Anaheim
1457 – suspicious person/vehicle, W. Columbia
1533 – larceny, W. Columbia Ave.
1538 – welfare check, Henry St.
2146 – threat, Owen St.

Thursday, March 12:

0910 – vehicle lockout, Main St.
1104 – misc. complaint, Church Apt. 105
1752 – property damage accident, Main St.
2057 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. Industrial Park Dr.
2222 – intrusion alarm, Fourth St.

Friday, March 13:

1023 – fraud, Menlo Park Dr.
1325 – harassment call, W. Columbia Ave.
1419 – malicious destruction of property, Savage
1707 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
2058 – assist fire dept., Carmell St.

Saturday, March 14:

1805 – traffic offense, Tornado's Pizza
Also on this week's log are 19 traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, March 8:

0150 – fire dept. assist, W. Arizona St.
0432 – fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0726 – animal complaint, 42000 bl. Wear Rd.
1049 – warrant arrest pick up, Rawsonville/Wear
1124 – fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1141 – suspicious circumstances, Rustic Ln.
1255 – follow-up investigation, 42000 bl. Wear
1303 – property damage accident, Carriage Ln. / Country Club Blvd.
1318 – open burning, 49000 bl. Wear Rd.
1337 – follow-up investigation, out of township
1354 – assist other agency, 10000 bl. Willis Rd.
1526 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1531 – animal complaint, Wayside Dr.
1551 – suspicious circumstances, Sumpter/Willis
1842 – warrant arrest pick up, Bemis/Sully
1910 – 911 hang up, 42000 bl. Willis Rd.
2050 – reckless driving, Rawsonville/Willis
2210 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Dunn Rd.
2317 – noise complaint, Wayside Dr.

Monday, March 9:

0127 – warrant arrest pick up, Rawsonville/Bemis
0409 – missing person, First St.
0436 – property damage accident, Willis Rd. / Rawsonville Rd.
0804 – follow-up investigation, First St.
1032 – fire dept. assist, 47000 bl. Judd Rd.
1045 – identity theft complaint, 50000 bl. Judd Rd.
1102 – traffic complaint, 18000 bl. Savage Rd.
1159 – subpoena service, Rustic Ln.

1206 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Sumpter
1642 – animal complaint, 8700 bl. Meadow Springs Ln.
1813 – suspicious circumstances, 43000 bl. Wear
1924 – subpoena service, Rustic Ln.

Tuesday, March 10:

0516 – welfare check, Edgewood Dr.
0646 – fire dept. assist, 28000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0852 – assist other agency, 42000 bl. Judd Rd.
1021 – follow-up investigation, out of township
1141 – fire dept. assist, 41000 bl. Harris Rd.
1357 – assist other agency, Brookview Dr.
1421 – suspicious circumstances, 47000 bl. Bemis
1423 – welfare check, Greenmeadow Dr.
1550 – suspicious person, 43000 bl. Willis Rd.
1708 – citizen assist, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.
1719 – alarm, 4900 bl. Oakville Waltz Rd.
1921 – suspicious circumstances, 47000 bl. Bemis
2106 – fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2131 – follow-up investigation, 47000 bl. Bemis
2322 – 911 hang up, 28000 bl. Elwell Rd.

Wednesday, March 11:

0824 – juvenile complaint, Timberlane Dr.
0933 – warrant arrest pick up, Bemis/Martinsville
1145 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1314 – suspicious person, Country Club Blvd.
1648 – suspicious circumstances, 50000 bl. Arkona Rd.

1712 – animal complaint, 44000 bl. Judd Rd.
1715 – suspicious person, Sumpter Rd./Willow Rd.
1923 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1924 – 911 hang up, 25000 bl. Elwell Rd.
2053 – welfare check, Virginia
2336 – warrant arrest pick up, Sumpter/Judd

Thursday, March 12:

0553 – assist other agency, 43000 bl. Dunn Rd.
0812 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Martinsville
0911 – welfare check, 20000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
0918 – fire dept. assist, Bemis Rd./Lohr Rd.
1203 – civil matter, 17000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1213 – civil matter, 42000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1302 – fire dept. assist, 41000 bl. Willis Rd.
1438 – animal complaint, Timberlane Dr.
1728 – citizen assist, 42000 bl. Willis Rd.
1745 – citizen assist, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.
1832 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2044 – suspicious circumstances, 40000 bl. Harris
2158 – 911 hangup, 22000 bl. Clark Rd.
2241 – suspicious circumstances, Carriage Ln.

Friday, March 13:

0136 – suspicious person, Texas St./Washington
0238 – property damage accident, Clark/Willow
0400 – suspicious circumstances, 23000 bl. Karr
0544 – property damage accident, 28000 bl. Clark
0734 – follow-up investigation, Timberland Dr.
0805 – follow-up investigation, 23000 bl. Sumpter
1411 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1511 – fire dept. assist, Pecan St.
1520 – fire dept. assist, 40000 bl. Clay Rd.
1527 – suspicious person, Creekside Dr.
1535 – animal complaint, 24000 bl. Martinsville
1619 – 911 hang up, 50000 bl. Willow Rd.
1702 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1709 – mental health call, 29000 bl. Martinsville
2058 – 911 hang up, 42000 bl. Willis Rd.

Saturday, March 14:

0301 – civil matter, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0656 – juvenile complaint, Timberlane Dr.
0753 – civil matter, 21000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1017 – fire dept. assist, 40000 bl. Clay Rd.
1040 – welfare check, Timberlane Dr.
1200 – animal complaint, 49000 bl. Wear Rd.
1404 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1508 – suspicious circumstances, 28000 bl. Clark
1541 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Bontekoe Ave.
1905 – fire dept. assist, 41000 bl. Wear Rd.
1914 – mental health call, Edgewood Dr.
2055 – 911 hang up, 40000 bl. Judd Rd.

Also on this week's log are 50 traffic stops, 38 patrol checks and eight miscellaneous details.

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P&P Dance Centre to host Youth Dance Day in Belleville on April 25

Registration is open for Youth Dance Day, a low-cost spring event hosted by Young Dancers Initiative, the educational arm under the umbrella of local non-profit dance company, Jodie Randolph Dance.

The one-day-only dance event will be offered on April 25. The event runs from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and is open to youth in the community ages 5-18.

Classes include the basics of jazz, ballet, modern, hip hop, musical theater, improvisational movement and even a health-and-wellness seminar.

Youth Dance Day will be held at P&P Dance Centre at 329 Industrial Park Dr. Belleville. This event costs \$5 to participate and is open to youth in the community.

Young Dancers Initiative is a pre-professional dance program under the direction of Megan Scheppelman. YDI was formed in September 2013 with a

mission to empower young artists through dance education. It aims to bridge the gap between self-connection and connection to others through movement, community engagement, and performances.

YDI teaching artists are eager to share their knowledge of dance with youth in the community who have not yet been exposed to the many benefits dance can provide.

"I am incredibly excited to be presenting this event!" said Megan Scheppelman, director of education. "With support from the Weikart Foundation, we are able to bring dance education to the community at very little cost. I am honored to be part of this organization and its mission to spread the power of dance to EVERYONE."

For more information, visit www.youngdancersinitiative.org/youth-dance-day.html

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES MARCH 16, 2020

Supervisor McNamara called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor McNamara, Treasurer Budd, Clerk Wright, Trustee Frazier, Trustee Martin, Trustee Miller, and Trustee White (via teleconference). Others in attendance: Secretary Montgomery, Public Services Director Best and Executive Assistant Renaud, Senior Director Jordan, DDA Director Ireland and Deputy Director Lothringer, Fire Chief McNally, Economic Planning and Development Director Powers, Human Resource Director Sumpter, Police Chief Wright, Public Safety Director Laurain and an audience of one (1).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE AGENDA: Supervisor McNamara outlined the items appearing on the agenda.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA: Wright moved, Frazier seconded to approve the agenda adding discussion on the Township's response to the Covid-19 (novel Corona virus) pandemic. Motion Carried.

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA: Wright moved, Miller seconded to approve the Consent Agenda [Work Study Session Minutes of March 2, 2020, Board Meeting Minutes of March 3, 2020, Prepaid List of March 5, 2020, Prepaid Election Worker Payroll of March 10, 2020, Prepaid List of March 12, 2020, and the Voucher List of March 17, 2020.] Motion Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: None.

C O R R E S P O N D E N C E / ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS: All Township Recreation programs and events are cancelled, the Belleville area Museum is closed, all Senior Center activities are cancelled, the Senior Center is closed and all regularly scheduled meetings are cancelled until further notice.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Unfinished and New Business): None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Martin moved, Wright seconded to approve Resolution 2020-08 the Hiring Policy Process.

Motion Carried.

Frazier moved, Budd seconded to approve a one-year extension to the existing professional services agreement with Hydro Corp Inc. to provide inspection and other related services for enforcement of the SDWA mandated cross connection control program. Motion Carried.

Discussion on the 10-year ground lease with The Habitat Company LLC to lease parcel 83 077 99 0002 007, the northeast corner of Beckley and Denton in Van Buren Township. If approved the tennis courts would be converted to pickle ball courts and be operated by the Township.

Discussion on proposals for the Townships plan in response to the Covid 19 (novel Corona Virus) pandemic.

Wright moved, Miller seconded to set aside ten (10) thousand dollars for emergency assistance to residents due to the Covid 19 (novel corona virus) pandemic. Motion Carried.

Martin moved, Miller seconded to suspend utility shut offs, late fees and fines for water payments. Motion Carried.

Budd moved, Miller seconded that in order to protect the staff and residents the Township will be closed, employees will be paid, and the Board will re-evaluate in two weeks. Motion Carried.

REPORTS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT NON-AGENDA ITEMS: Public Services Director Best assured the public that all water emergencies will be addressed during the shutdown. Department Directors will check emails daily. Board members will also be available by phone and email. Union employees assigned to public safety who are needed for cleaning, sanitizing, records and reports will be required to work.

BOARD COMMENT NON-AGENDA ITEMS: Board members urged residents to adhere to the CDC and State guidelines in response to the Covid-19 (novel corona) virus.

ADJOURNMENT: Martin moved, Miller seconded to adjourn at 4:53 p.m. Motion Carried.

Leon Wright, Township Clerk
 Kevin McNamara, Supervisor
 Publish: March 19, 2020

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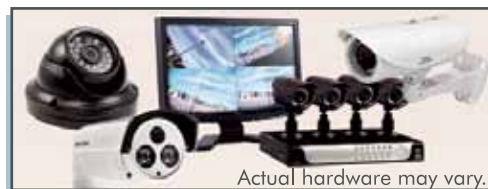
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